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PRESS RELEASE

“My Career” Partners with Municipality of Gazi Baba

The National Internship and Job Placement Program – “My Career” established a new partnership with the Municipality of Gazi Baba to create internship opportunities in the local government and the business community. This partnership is the first of its kind in the Skopje region. “My Career” was developed by the USAID Competiveness Project to encourage business internships, but Mayor Toni Trajkovski of Gazi Baba wanted to introduce this useful practice in local government as well. Today (December 15, 2009), Mayor Trajkovski and the USAID Competiveness Project Chief of Party Mr. Nimish Jhaveri signed an agreement to mark this new partnership and informed the business community of Gazi Baba of the program’s benefits.

“The Internship and Job Placement Program provides students with a chance to experience a real business environment, adopt business ethics and develop business relations” said Jhaveri. “The overall goal of the Program is to institutionalize internships as a widely accepted human resource practice and business model in companies in Macedonia. This will help them become more competitive by finding and recruiting the best candidates in the job market.”

“We strongly support My Career program, and that’s why we decided to actively participate. Gazi Baba municipality is open for new initiatives and through our activities we hope this Program will bring good perspective in the future, both to the interns and the municipality.” said Mayor Trajkovski.

The portal www.mycareer.com.mk is available in three languages (Macedonian, Albanian and English), and open to all users. To date, over 4000 students and 200 companies have registered and are actively using the portal. Some 510 students have successfully secured internships, and 75 of these have been retained for full employment. Companies can also post events at the portal, search for skilled candidates that meets their needs, and interact with future employees through a real-time forum and chat rooms. Through the portal, USAID will help the municipality to foster a skilled workforce that will respond to the changing needs of industries.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that increase investment, create jobs, reduce corruption and improve the quality of education in Macedonia. These initiatives support Macedonia’s transition to a stable democracy and its successful integration into the European Union. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.